

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

E. Hervey Evans House

Laurinburg, Scotland County, SC0307, Listed 4/5/2006

Nomination by Beth Keane

Photographs by Beth Keane, March 2004



Façade view



Rear view

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Evans, E. Hervey, House

other names/site number Thomas Walton Manor

2. Location

street & number 400 West Church Street not for publication N/A

city or town Laurinburg vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Scotland code 165 zip code 28352

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the

National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the

National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Name of Property

Scotland County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
LANDSCAPE	garden

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
LANDSCAPE	garden

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof slate
walls brick

other brick
iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Name of Property

Scotland County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance

1939-1956

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Evans, Eramus Hervey

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Weaver, John A., architect
Gillette, Charles, landscape architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Name of Property

Scotland County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 640300 3849004
2

Zone Easting Northing
3
4
See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date October, 2005

street & number 21 Market Street, #3 telephone 910-815-1096

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Charles L. Horne

street & number 5272 River Road telephone 301-656-4304

city or town Bethesda state MD zip code 20816

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC

Narrative Description

The 1939 E. Hervey Evans House is located in Laurinburg, the county seat of Scotland County. The house is situated several blocks west of the central business district and sits on the north side of West Church Street, a main east-west thoroughfare through town. The L-shaped property associated with the house spans the width of the block and is bounded by McLaurin Avenue on the east and Peden Street on the west. The surrounding neighborhood is comprised of notable early-twentieth-century houses set on large lots and is enhanced by tree-lined streets and sidewalks. The Scotland County Library is located east of the house on the northeast corner of West Church Street and McLaurin Avenue. The property is surrounded on three sides by a low brick wall, pierced in the front and solid on each side. The rear fence consists of brick piers infilled with vertical wood boards. The name the current owner has given the property, "Thomas Walton Manor" is painted on a sign that is mounted on paired square wood posts in front of the fence. A decorative wrought iron gate centered in the front wall allows access onto the property.

The two-and-one-half-story brick Georgian Revival-style Evans House sits near the front of the lot, facing south. A brick three-car garage is located northeast of the house, facing east, while a brick smokehouse is situated behind (north of) the main dwelling, near the back of the lot. Both buildings are contemporary with the Evans House. Professionally landscaped grounds, designed in 1939 by landscape architect Charles F. Gillette, surround the house. The grounds are terraced behind the house, with a brick retaining wall with curved brick steps dividing the informal gardens and patios surrounding the house from the more formal rear gardens. Additions to the grounds within the last ten years include an in-ground swimming pool, a pool gazebo/pavilion, and a pump house, all located north of the dwelling. A parking area is situated east of the house and gardens.

Inventory List

1. Evans House	1939	Contributing Building
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The Evans House is an excellent example of the full-blown Georgian Revival-style house patterned after eighteenth-century plantation homes along the James River in Virginia. The two-and-one-half-story brick house is laid in Flemish bond and sits on a brick foundation marked by a brick water table. The oversized brick was handmade by Mankin Brick Company of Virginia (no longer in business). Hollow tile for wall backing was manufactured by the National Fireproofing Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Structural steel was utilized for some of the beams, the lintels over the windows, doors and chimneys, and chimney corbels. Cypress floor joists and ceiling rafters and yellow pine studs were used in the framing of the house. Window frames and sash, the exterior door frames, and all exterior trim including cornice,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

casing, base and porch details were all manufactured from white pine. The gutters and down spouts are made of Anaconda copper.

The 10,000-square-foot house consists of a central five-bay block flanked by two recessed, symmetrical, two-bay, one-and-one-half-story wings. Brick quoins mark the corners of the main block and the flanking wings. Windows throughout the house consist of six-over-six double-hung sash, topped by flat arch lintels, and flanked by wood shutters. The symmetrical façade features a recessed four-panel wood door and a Colonial Revival-style door surround consisting of fluted Doric pilasters and an arched broken pediment with dentils framing a pineapple mounted on a base. The brass lock on the front door was made in eighteenth-century England for a house near Charleston. Three stone steps flanked by a cast-iron railing lead to the front entrance vestibule with a cast stone floor. A leaded glass transom surmounts the door.

The slate for the side-gable roof is “Tudor Stone” made by Rising & Nelson Slate Company in West Pawlet, Vermont. Each of the three gabled dormers in the central block has a six-over-six sash window. A row of modillions runs under the overhanging eaves. An interior-end chimney is situated on both the east- and west-gable ends of the main block of the house.

The north (rear) elevation of the central block has a two-story gabled ell on the east side of the elevation. The ell’s north elevation has a bowed wall with three windows at the first level and two windows at the second level. A standing-seam copper roof covers the first-level bay. A lunette window is centered in the gable. The west-flanking wall of the ell has an entrance door at the first level and a window over the door at the second level. A four-paneled door with sidelights and a leaded-glass transom are centrally located on the north (rear) elevation of the central block opposite the front door. A stained-glass Palladian window is centered over the door at the interior stair landing. Two windows are symmetrically arranged at each level of the rear elevation, west of the door. In 2003, a glass atrium with a pyramidal roof was added to the north elevation protecting the central hall entrance and the entrance to the dining room on the west elevation of the rear ell. Two gabled dormers are located at the attic level of the central block, west of the rear ell.

The facades of the two flanking side-gable wings have two windows at the first level and two wall dormers at the second level. Each wing has an exterior-end chimney with double paved shoulders. Although the side elevations of the wings have two windows at each level, they differ in the window size and placement. The first-level windows of the east wing flank the chimney, but are of two different sizes, while the windows at the second level hug the chimney stack. The first-level windows of the west wing’s side elevation also flank the chimney, but are the same size and are symmetrically arranged under the second-level windows.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

The north (rear) elevation of the east wing has two windows at the first level and two wall dormers at the second level. A small entry alcove with a hipped slate roof is positioned on the northeast corner of the elevation. The entrance is on the east side elevation of the alcove, while steps to a basement entrance are situated behind the alcove along the rear basement wall.

A sloping roof on the north (rear) elevation of the west wing covers an engaged porch, shading a stone terrace. Wood posts spanned by segmental wood arches support the roof. The porch protects a four-panel door flanked on the west by a single window. Two gabled dormers are located at the second level of the wing.

The first level of the house has a typical Georgian double-pile, central-hall floor plan. The hall runs the depth of the house with a front and rear entrance and a main staircase along the west wall. The hall is flanked on the west by a living room, spanning the depth of the house, and on the east, by a library and a dining room. Four doors provide access from the hall to the adjoining rooms. The doors on the west side of the hall, French doors near the front and a single door near the back, open into the living room. On the east side of the hall, French doors open into the rear dining room, while double six-panel doors open into the richly paneled library. The rear door of the central hall opens into a glass atrium, added to the house in 2003. A door from the dining room also opens into the atrium. Two small closets are located on either side of the front entrance.

A graceful open string staircase rises along the west side of the central hall to a landing, changes direction, and then continues along the east wall to the second story. The banister consists of slender turned balusters that spiral at the bottom and a molded mahogany handrail. The banister continues around a curved stairwell in the second-story central hall. A Palladian window (with new stained glass) lights the stair landing. A small closet is positioned behind the first flight of stairs.

Paneled wainscoting of white pine with molded cap and base is found in the central hall, along the staircase, in the upper central hall, and in the living and dining rooms. Twelve-foot plaster ceilings and walls, crown molding, four-inch wide baseboards with top molding, and six-panel white pine doors can be found throughout the house. Random width oak plank floors manufactured from Appalachian Highland oak timber are used in the first level living room, main hall, library, dining room, and guest room. The floors in the second story rooms are of North Carolina tongue-and-groove pine.

A fireplace, one of four eighteenth-century, Federal-style mantels found in the house, is the focal point of the spacious living room. The hand-carved mantel of heart pine is composed of fluted pilasters, a frieze with a sunburst, a richly carved cornice, and a molded mantel shelf.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

The fireplace surround and hearth consist of black marble. Paneled aprons embellish the room's four windows.

A short hall connects the living room to the bedroom (originally intended as the guest room), a separate sitting room, and full bathroom located in the west wing. The bedroom also contains an eighteenth-century pine mantel composed of molding done in a crosstetted design topped by two short pilasters, a row of dentils, and a molded mantel shelf. The firebox surround and hearth consist of black marble. The west wing has a separate door to the rear covered terrace.

On the opposite side of the central hall, the library retains the original richly ornate sugar pine paneling. The double-leaf six-panel recessed library doors are surmounted by a carved sunburst lunette. The library entrance is embellished with pine molding, wall panels, and flanked by full-height, fluted Doric pilasters. Built-in bookshelves are located on the west wall on either side of the entrance. On the opposite wall, the fireplace retains the original plain mantel with a molded mantel shelf and black marble tile surround and hearth. Full-height fluted Doric wall pilasters flank the fireplace. A molded cornice with dentils encircles the room.

The formal dining room is distinguished by a bowed north-side wall with three double-hung sash windows, paneled wainscoting and a molded plaster ceiling medallion. A decorative design has recently been painted on the oak floors of the dining room.

The first story of the east wing contains a breakfast room at the front of the house and behind it, an adjoining kitchen. The breakfast room is embellished with a molded chair rail and a plaster ceiling medallion. The original linoleum floor of the breakfast room has been replaced with a wood floor.

A short hall links the library to the breakfast room. The hall contains the service stairs that rise from the basement up to the attic, in addition to a half-bathroom with the original green hexagonal floor tile. The stair balusters are one-inch plain round turned, three to a tread with solid fluted posts at each angle. A two-inch round hand rail on one side of the enclosed stairs to the basement is secured with iron brackets.

A former butler's pantry connects the dining room to the kitchen. The butler's pantry has recently been converted into a laundry room with a sink and cabinets. The kitchen has also recently been remodeled with a new black and white checkered ceramic tile floor (replacing the original linoleum floor), lighting, kitchen appliances, an island, and a tray ceiling with a ceiling fan.

The second floor of the house is comprised of the central hall, several connecting halls, and five bedrooms with adjoining bathrooms. A built-in arched cabinet with a glass front

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

centered on the south wall of the central hall was originally an arched entrance into a (former) sewing room. The original dining room chandelier is now hanging in the second-story central hall.

Two bedrooms are located west of the central hall, one over the first-level living room and one over the west-wing bedroom. The master bedroom over the living room has an eighteenth-century Federal-style pine mantel with flat pilasters flanking the firebox, a wide frieze, and a molded mantel shelf. The firebox surround and hearth consist of black marble. A small sitting room and bathroom connect to the bedroom. The room has cedar-lined closets and built-in cedar-lined chest of drawers. All the second level bathrooms have ceramic or marble tiled floors and bathtub and shower surrounds.

Three bedrooms are located east of the central hall. These were originally intended to be the children's bedrooms, one for the girls and two for the boys. The former girl's bedroom, is accessed from the east side of the central hall. The former sewing room has been converted to a bathroom to serve this bedroom. A long hall runs east of the central hall to one of the former boy's bedrooms in the east wing. A bathroom situated between the two front bedrooms originally was accessed from the girl's bedroom, but now opens to the east wing bedroom. The second boy's bedroom is located on the north side of the hallway. A bathroom that originally served both the boys' bedrooms is now accessed from the north side bedroom via a short hall.

The service stairs ascend from the east end of the hall to the attic level. Two hall closets are positioned at the base of the stairs. The attic, originally the maid's room, consists of 594 square feet and has been finished into a small apartment area with a bedroom, bathroom, small kitchen, and living area.

The service steps descend from the first floor front hall to a basement that is comprised of a large recreation room, a smaller room (originally a store room and laundry room), and an unfinished area that houses the furnace. The recreation room is paneled with vertical cypress boards and has a tiled floor. A recently installed acoustical tile ceiling hides the original wood ceiling beams. A fireplace centered on the north wall has an eighteenth-century pine mantel, similar to the one in the upstairs master bedroom, with flanking flat pilasters, a wide frieze, a dentil course, and a molded mantel shelf. Brick surrounds the firebox. A door opening to the exterior basement steps is positioned at the bottom of the service stairs, west of the fireplace. The adjacent room also has tile floors, an acoustical tile ceiling, and paneled walls. Two small six-over-six windows are located at ceiling height on the north wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC

2. Garage	1939	Contributing Outbuilding
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A brick three-car garage is located about 10 feet from the northeast corner of the house, facing east. The brick is laid in Flemish bond with soldier course lintels over the windows and doors. The steeply-pitched, front-gable roof is composed of slate. The east elevation has three garage doors, each with four upper lights. Two six-over-six sash windows are centered in the east and west gable ends. A single recessed six-panel door flanked by two six-over-six sash windows is located near the western end of the south elevation. A single six-panel door, positioned on the north side of the west gable end, opens to an interior stair case that ascends to a second-level apartment. A tall chimney rises from the south slope of the roof near the west elevation. A brick wall hides the heat pump units behind the garage. Another brick wall, laid in Flemish bond, extends east from the northwest corner of the garage, marking a brick patio with walkways and gardens between the house, the wall, and the garage. A fountain on the wall spurts water into a small pool. A brick walkway connects the garage to the front and rear entrances of the house.

3. Smokehouse	1939	Contributing Building
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A one-story brick smokehouse is located near the north (rear) edge of the property. The south-facing building is laid in Flemish bond and has a hipped slate roof. The L-shaped building has an east-side projecting ell with a centered heavy wood door composed of diagonal boards with strap hinges. A soldier-course lintel surmounts the door. The western portion of the building is open on the south side and reveals a brick fireplace along the west wall. An interior-end chimney is located on the north elevation.

4. Gazebo	2003	Noncontributing Structure
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A one-story frame gazebo is situated about thirty feet north of the swimming pool. The gazebo has a high, hipped, sloping shingle roof and is supported by twelve square wood posts connected by segmental wood arches and a decorative wood railing. The floor of the gazebo is brick with a basket weave pattern. A ceiling fan hangs from the center of the ceiling. A brick walkway connects the pool to the gazebo. The gazebo design was adapted from plans drawn by Charles Gillette for the Woodrow Wilson boyhood home in Staunton, Virginia.

5. Pump House	2003	Noncontributing Structure
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A frame hexagonal-shaped pool pump house is situated about ten feet northeast of the gazebo. The pump house has a high pyramidal shingle roof, weatherboard siding, and a single wood door. The plans for the pump house were also taken from plans drawn by Charles Gillette, the landscape designer responsible for the grounds and gardens surrounding the Evans House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC

6. Swimming Pool	2003	Noncontributing Structure
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A long narrow in-ground swimming pool, approximately forty-feet long and ten-feet wide, is located behind the west wing of the house in the area originally designated as the vegetable garden. A flagstone terrace surrounds the pool.

7. Brick Wall	1939	Contributing structure
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A wall with a stone base and approximately six-foot sections of brick laid in an open pierced pattern between solid brick piers stretches across the south (front) side of the property. The wall becomes solid brick on the east and west sides of the property. The north (rear) wall consists of brick posts connected by vertical wood boards. The entry gate and side garden gates are wrought iron. The entry gate was a gift from friends of the Evans family from Charleston, South Carolina.

8. Gardens	1939	Contributing site
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The gardens surrounding the house were designed by renowned landscape architect, Charles Gillette from Richmond, Virginia. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with mature evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. Plants surrounding the house include magnolias, hollies, dogwoods, cherry trees, boxwoods, rhododendrons, fatsias, azaleas, camellias, crepe myrtles, Indian hawthorns, and a variety of flowers. A patio garden with a fountain and pool sits behind the house. The rear yard is terraced with curving brick steps descending to a long, narrow lawn lined by flowerbeds and brick walkways flanked by rows of crepe myrtles. The area previously designated as a vegetable garden is now the location of an attractive in-ground swimming/reflecting pool with a flag stone terrace and numerous flowering shrubs surrounding the pool.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The E. Hervey Evans House is locally significant under Criterion B in the area of commerce as the home of Eramus Hervey Evans, a locally prominent figure in business and community affairs and a well-known and respected philanthropist in Laurinburg for over fifty years. It is also significant under Criterion C as a superb and intact example of a Georgian Revival-style house built by prominent architect John A. Weaver from New York City and landscaped by renowned landscape architect Charles F. Gillette of Richmond, Virginia. Evans, Weaver, and Gillette traveled by private train car to Colonial Williamsburg and the plantations along the James River for inspiration and adapted architectural details for the house from the James River plantations of Berkley, Evelynton, and Carter's Grove. The home and the grounds remain in pristine condition and with its prominent setting along Church Street; a main thoroughfare through town, the property continues to reflect Evans's impact on shaping and promoting Laurinburg into Scotland County's largest and most prosperous city and a thriving county seat. The period of significance begins in 1939, the date of construction of the Evans House and extends to 1956, a time period when E. Hervey Evans was the most active figure in business, industry, banking, farming, and philanthropy in Laurinburg. The post-1956 period is not of exceptional significance.

Historical Background and Criterion B Context: Commerce

The first families, many of them Scotch immigrants, to settle in the area now known as Laurinburg arrived in 1785. By 1840, the settlement still only consisted of three dwellings, the store, a saloon, and several small outbuildings. In 1853, the Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad announced that it would build through Laurinburg and the first trains began running in 1861. During the Civil War, the railroad moved its railroad shops from Wilmington to Laurinburg. Although originally intending to remain in Laurinburg only until the end of the war, they later purchased additional land and remained until 1894 (Myers, p. 8).

E. Hervey Evans was born into one of Laurinburg's most influential families. His grandfather, John F. McNair, moved his mercantile business from the town of Laurel Hill to Laurinburg in 1872. At the time, Laurinburg was still a part of Richmond County. Laurinburg's fledgling commercial district developed along Main Street during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. With the arrival of John F. McNair, Laurinburg became headquarters for the largest and most financially successful mercantile, industrial, and agricultural enterprises in the county's history. McNair was a prominent businessman with far-reaching interests in land, textiles, banking, as well as flour mills, seed mills, fertilizer plants, farming operations, and mercantile operations (Butchko, p. 56).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC

John F. McNair was married to Mary Jane Lytch and their daughter, Martha Virginia (Mattie), married Eramus Hervey Evans of Cumberland County. Their son, Eramus Hervey Evans, Jr. was born in Laurinburg on August 22, 1900. His father died two months before his birth on June 24, 1900 and his mother died in 1912. Orphaned as a child, he was reared by his grandparents, John F. and Mary Jane McNair.

On February 20, 1899, an act of the General Assembly created Scotland County from the eastern portion of Richmond County and designated Laurinburg as the county seat. The county began to function in December 1900 and a new courthouse was built in 1901. Evans came of age at a time when Laurinburg's economy was beginning to prosper. The first two decades of the twentieth century were a time of good prices and expanding agriculture for the county resulting in a demand for additional commercial goods and services. Laurinburg's expanding business and mercantile activity related directly to the county's flush agricultural economy. Other factors included an expanding industrial base brought about by the organization of four major textile mills in Laurinburg, the opening of The Bank of Laurinburg in 1893 and the Scotland Savings Bank in 1904, and substantial commercial investment by several of Laurinburg's leading citizens. The healthy economy resulted in a steady population increase in Laurinburg during the early decades of the twentieth century, growing from approximately 1,800 in 1900 to 3,500 in 1924 (Butchko, p. 56).

As a child, Evans attended schools in Maxton and Laurinburg, later graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1921. He also attended Harvard Business School for several months until he was called home by his grandfather to work in the family business after the death of his uncle (*Laurinburg Exchange*, Apr. 12, 1976, p. 1).

E. Hervey Evans, Jr. married Anne Livingston Borden (b. February 17, 1903) of Goldsboro, North Carolina, on November 5, 1924. The couple had five children: Hervey, Jr. (1925), Ann Borden (1927), John Borden (1929), McNair (1930), and Murphy (1932) (*Scotland County Heritage*, p. 242). On July 22, 1922, two years prior to his marriage, Evans purchased a lot on the northeast corner of Church and Peden streets from James L. and Gertrude McNair (Deed Book M, p. 319). Two years later, on October 31, 1924, Evans expanded the size of his tract by purchasing at auction an adjacent parcel on the northwest corner of Church Street and McLaurin Avenue (Deed Book N, p. 420). It was not until 1939 that he hired John A. Weaver, an architect from New York City, and began construction on his two-story brick Georgian Revival-style house. The general contractor for the construction of the house was Southeastern Construction Company of Charlotte. Evans also hired Charles Gillette, a well-known landscape architect from Virginia to design the gardens surrounding the new home. (See 1939 landscape plan included as Appendix A.) The family moved into their new house on Church Street in 1939 when the youngest child was seven and the oldest was fourteen. The Evans House, the largest

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

and grandest dwelling in town, reflected Evans' prosperity and his important contributions to the activity and growth of Laurinburg.

Throughout his life, Evans was active in the leadership of the various McNair business interests and became a well-respected and admired business leader in Laurinburg and throughout the state. He served as president of McNair Investment Company, a large agricultural firm, and was especially noted for his contributions in agricultural development, having pioneered many new agricultural enterprises, techniques in farm management and mechanization, and in research to develop improved farm seeds (*Laurinburg Exchange*, Apr. 12, 1976, p. 1).

Evans served as president of the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad, which was chartered in 1909 by a local cooperative of businessmen. The line ran from Johns to Wagram and expanded its run to Raeford around 1919. The railroad conveyed farm products including cotton, melons, corn, and lumber.

Evans also served as president of Laurinburg Oil Company and Maxton Oil and Fertilizer Company, businesses founded by his grandfather. He was chairman of the board of Durham Life Insurance Company, having been a founder of State Capital Life Insurance Company in Raleigh which in 1970 merged with Durham Life. From 1939 to 1970 he was a director of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company. He served as a director of the Federal Land Bank in Columbia, South Carolina, from 1932 to 1955 and on the North Carolina State Board of Public Welfare from 1937 to 1961. Carolina Power and Light Company, the Research Triangle Foundation, and the Federal Land Bank of the Southeast all utilized his services as a director. Through his association with these companies, Evans was uniquely qualified to help bring new industry to Scotland County and was instrumental in the location of the Ingraham Plant, LOF Glass (Pilkington), and Westpoint Stevens (formerly Spring Mills) in the county (*Scotland County Heritage*, p. 242).

During World War II, Evans was local chairman of the Selective Service System. At the end of the war, he played an active role in the organization and development of Scotland Memorial Hospital, the Scotland County Memorial Library, and St. Andrews Presbyterian College. Also for many years, he served on the State Board of Public Welfare in Raleigh (*Scotland County Heritage*, p. 242).

With the support of his wife, Evans quietly ministered in his church and in all levels of the community. He was elected a ruling elder in the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church in 1939. For many years he taught the adult Bible class at Middleton Heights Presbyterian Church. From 1947 until 1975, Evans served as trustee of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. The E. Hervey and Anne B. Evans Chair in Church and Society was established at Union Seminary in their honor. In 1954 and 1955, Evans was one of three laymen on a seven-person committee which was successful in gaining the adoption of a resolution by the Presbyterian

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 11

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

Synod of North Carolina to end racial segregation in the Presbyterian Church (*Scotland County Heritage*, p. 242).

In addition, Evans assisted many local students in their pursuit of a college education. He established the John F. McNair Scholarship fund in honor of his grandfather to award scholarships for students graduating from the local Laurinburg high school. In honor of his mother, he established the Memorial Bible Lecture Series, annually given by outstanding theologians in three area churches where his mother had been a Sunday school teacher. And in 1974, on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary, Evans and his wife created the Memorial Foundation, Inc.; an endowment fund they hoped would be augmented by gifts from others, which is aimed at serving community needs and development within his native county (*Scotland County Heritage*, p. 242).

At the time of his death on April 10, 1976, E. Hervey Evans was one of Laurinburg's best known and loved citizens. He died at his residence at 400 West Church Street after an extended illness at the age of seventy-five (*Laurinburg Exchange*, April 12, 1976, p. 1). He was survived by his wife, his five children, and eighteen grandchildren. His wife, Anne, died on December 27, 1995. At the time of her death, there were twenty grandchildren and thirty great grandchildren (*Laurinburg Exchange*, December 29, 1995, p. 2). The Evans House on Church Street remained vacant for a number of years. On June 30, 1999, the estate of E. Hervey Evans, consisting of his five children and their respective spouses, along with the Scotland County Community Foundation, sold the property to Charles Larry Horne and Ronald W. Phillips (Deed Book 592, p. 263).

Horne, a native of Laurinburg, was fascinated with the Evans House as a child. It was not until thirty years later and a successful career as a world-renown interior designer based in Washington, DC that the opportunity to acquire the property became available. When it went on the market in 1999, Horne purchased the house and has spent the past five years restoring and updating the house. The Evans House now operates as a bed and breakfast inn with a full professional staff and Horne hopes to move back to Laurinburg and live in the house upon his retirement (Thomas Walton Manor website).

Criterion C Context: Landscape Architecture

The gardens and grounds surrounding the E. Hervey Evans House were designed by landscape architect, Charles Gillette (1886-1968) of Richmond, Virginia. Gillette's formal training between 1909 and 1916 at the Boston firm of landscape designer Warren Manning gave Gillette critical early experience in the creation and maintenance of large estates. From the 1920s through the 1960s, Charles G. Gillette was considered the best landscape designer in Virginia as well as the upper South. Charles Gillette began landscaping private gardens for Virginia's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC

predominantly Georgian-style suburban estates almost immediately on establishing his office in Richmond about 1917 (Longest, p. 61).

The early years of the twentieth century were a time when the United States grew tremendously in population and economic strength. Many successful businessmen and industrialists built expansive country estates where they could enjoy the beauty and tranquility of nature away from the noise, crowding and dirt of the cities. Popular magazines such as *Country Life in America* and *House Beautiful* promoted a genteel rural lifestyle to the middle and upper classes. American country estates of the early 1900s were often conceived with closely integrated architectural and landscape components and with visually appealing transitions between the house, lawns, and gardens. All major views, both interior and exterior, were carefully planned. Later referred to as the American Country Place era, it was a time when the ideal country house lifestyle was one of rural recreation and genteel leisure. The country estate provided a splendid setting for recreational activities and pastimes such as equestrian sports, sailing, motoring, and gardening.

The Country Place movement encouraged a designer such as Gillette to be innovative within the context of a Georgian interpretation of the Virginia landscape. Landscaping for large country estates demanded careful attention to detail, concern for proportion and scale, spatial organization, and a harmonious relationship between plan and plantings - all elements in which Gillette excelled. Gillette became known for the quiet spirituality of his gardens as well as for their stunning patterns or distinctively formal designs. In the ensuing years, he would plan the gardens of hundreds of Virginia's estates including Kenmore, Agecroft Hall, Virginia House, Nordley, Milburne, Redesdale, and Little Yatton (Longest, p. 42).

Charles Gillette drew heavily upon English predecessors and was well versed in the work of eighteenth-century landscape designers. He often copied the picturesque English cottage look in his work with considerable softness. He also drew heavily upon Mediterranean influences as revealed in his fondness for confining walls and hedges, secluded niches, shaded areas, ornamental fruit trees, fountains, pools, statuary, and vine-covered pergolas. Gillette's style, like the best of the Country Place period, was a successful blend of traditional forms and his own cultivated instinct and eclecticism. By 1938 when the Architectural League of New York honored his work for its "charm and adherence to the Southern tradition," Gillette's reputation as the interpreter of southern gardens had been firmly established in Virginia (Longest, pp. 43-44).

Although on a smaller scale than he normally worked, Gillette's previous experience with country estates allowed him to use the same concepts on Evans' smaller-than-an-acre town lot. As was his custom, when he began work on the Evans landscape design, he collaborated with the house architect, John Weaver, to design a garden that would befit the grandiose Georgian Revival house that Weaver designed for the lot. Together, along with Mr. and Mrs. Evans, they

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 13

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

toured the plantation houses and gardens along the James River for inspiration. They may have been impressed with the landscape design of Virginia House, a 1927 plan instigated by Gillette. The house was a reconstructed eight-hundred-year-old building transported from England to a one-acre lot near Richmond. Similar to the design for the Evans estate, Gillette planned a series of separate garden spaces surrounding the house. He included an area known as Madame's Garden, an intimate area screened with a tall hedge and accented by four Gothic columns. A rectangular pool enhanced the garden's appeal as a warm-weather retreat. He also incorporated a water garden, enhanced by naturalized plantings and Italian sculpture (Longest, p. 77).

By 1938, when he began work on the Evans design, Gillette had developed a style of design based on a liberal interpretation of tradition in landscape design. He became noted for "seeking to achieve a graceful fusion of the interior and exterior of each house with its grounds" (Longest, p. 65). His design for the Evans town parcel again incorporated a number of garden rooms or spaces for different needs on the L-shaped lot. The public area between the street and the house was planted with symmetrical plantings of boxwood at the foundation of the house in addition to several specimen trees and bushes along the perimeter of the front yard. Some of the plants included flowering cherry trees, dogwoods, Japanese maples, holly trees, and American boxwoods. The gardens behind the house, more formal in organization, were divided into distinctive outdoor rooms for various uses. A flagstone patio directly behind the house was delineated by a brick wall with a fountain spilling water into a raised pool. Flowers and shrubs enhanced and softened the stone and brickwork. Gillette incorporated a stepped terrace west of the patio to deal with a pitch of the land. A brick retaining wall with curved brick steps lead to a garden room with a spacious green lawn flanked by brick walkways and flowering shrubs. The formal vegetable and flower garden was located adjacent to this area and connected by brick paths. Rows of flowering shrubs bordered the vegetable garden. A third garden area east of the house was devoted to open lawn shaded on the perimeter by flowering shrubs and deciduous trees. The open brick wall spanning the front of the property, shielding the front of the house from immediate public view, is also a signature design feature of Gillette's (See 2001 3-D view included as Appendix B.)

The current owner has reclaimed the landscape designed by Gillette using the original landscape plan as a guide. (See Appendix C.) All the structural work incorporated into the gardens by Gillette, including the fences, gates, walkways, fountains, and fishpond remain. The original foundation plantings of English boxwood were replaced with large American boxwood. Care was taken to duplicate the original plan with the same number and placement of the new boxwoods. The area in front of the house has been naturalized with the addition of mondo grass on the right in place of manicured grass, while the lawn to the left of the entrance has been softened by rounding the corners of the planting beds. Major plantings of camellias, azaleas, magnolias, and crepe myrtles remain and have been pruned. A portion of the lawn east of the house was recently claimed for a parking lot to serve the bed and breakfast inn, although the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 14

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

plantings remain around the perimeter. In addition, a brick walkway was added connecting the parking area to the front door sidewalk. The only additional changes involved replacing the vegetable garden in the back of the house with a long, narrow swimming pool and adding a gazebo and pump house based on traditional Williamsburg designs. The resulting landscape maintains the important design elements and plantings incorporated by Gillette, yet accommodates new amenities for the enjoyment of the inn's guests.

Criterion C Context: Architecture

Following on the heels of America's Centennial celebrations, the Colonial Revival emerged in the early 1880s. The style, based on early American architecture, particularly Georgian and Federal buildings, was largely an outgrowth of a new pride in America's past. Among the leaders of the movement were the partners at McKim, Mead, and White who had made a tour of New England's historic towns in 1878. Although early interpretations of the style tended to be free interpretations with details inspired by colonial precedents, during the first decade of the twentieth century, Colonial Revival fashion shifted toward carefully researched copies with more correct proportions and details. Colonial Revival houses built in the years between 1915 and 1935 reflect these influences by more closely resembling early prototypes than did those built earlier or later. The economic depression of the 1930s, World War II, and changing postwar fashions led to a simplification of the style in the 1940s and 50s (McAlester, p. 326).

The Colonial or Georgian Revival-style house was a popular choice among Laurinburg's middle and upper class during the early decades of the twentieth century and many were built along Church Street. The 1939 Evans House, however, is the most grandiose house in Laurinburg and perhaps the most accurate representation of the original eighteenth-century Colonial houses built by the gentry class in the South. Inspired by the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, E. Hervey Evans and his wife, Anne, hired New York City architect John A. Weaver, from the architecture division of Macy's Department Store, to design a house for their large lot on West Church Street. Weaver was also responsible for the 1938 Art Moderne-style design of McNair's General Merchandise Store at 131 South Main Street, a business inherited by Evans from his grandfather, John McNair. At the same time, they retained landscape architect Charles Gillette, known for his landscapes of Virginia country estates, to plan the gardens surrounding their new home. In 1937, the foursome traveled by rail car to Colonial Williamsburg to observe the restoration work being done on the buildings of the town. On the same trip, they toured the plantation homes along the James River in search of inspiration for their new house in Laurinburg. Weaver and Anne Evans worked on a Georgian colonial design for the house during the ensuing year. Apparently, Mrs. Evans was particularly inspired by Carter's Grove, the ancestral home of the Carter family on the James River in Virginia.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 15

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

The general contractor for the construction of the house was Southeastern Construction Company of Charlotte. The house is of solid brick construction and was carefully laid in the Flemish bond manner by a talented black brick mason in Laurinburg named Press Monroe. Mrs. Evans selected the appropriate shading for the mortar. Many Georgian details are evident in the two-and-half-story, side-gable house with flanking wings. The focus of the five-bay symmetrical main block of the house is on the central front entrance. The paneled front door with leaded glass transom is recessed and surrounded by an elaborate door surround with a decorative crown supported by fluted pilasters. The cornice is emphasized with a row of modillions, while brick quoins embellish the corners of the main block and flanking wings. The attic is made habitable by three gabled dormers, a common feature in colonial houses.

The interior is also reminiscent of many Georgian-style houses of the colonial period. A wide central hall, running the depth of the house, features a wide graceful staircase with a Palladian window at the landing. The hall is flanked on one side by a living room, also measuring the depth of the house, and on the other side by a dining room and library. The millwork design in the pine-paneled library was influenced by the Billiard Room of Raleigh's Tavern in Williamsburg. Mrs. Evans and the architect carefully worked out the design of the wainscoting and moldings in all areas of the house in keeping with the Georgian style. Four of the mantels came from an eighteenth-century house near Charleston, South Carolina, that was being dismantled, and were presented to the Evans family as gifts from their friends in Charleston.

In comparison, the 1922 James L. McNair House, located at 305 East Church Street and built by Evans' uncle, is a very elegant Colonial Revival-style house, but built on a somewhat more modest scale than the Evans House. The two-and-half-story brick house with a high hipped roof is also five bays wide, but lacks the flanking wings of the Evans House. The leaded glass fanlight and sidelights surrounding the front entrance are in keeping with the Colonial Revival style. In addition a prominent one-story portico supported by solid brick columns dominates the front of the house. The central hall staircase has a similar balustrade that spirals at the bottom of the steps. Paneled wainscoting is also found in the central passage and some of the first level rooms (NC Department of Cultural Resources Survey File SC 219).

The house located at 334 E. Church Street built for Duncan James Sinclair is another excellent example of a late Colonial Revival-style. The architect for this house was H. D. Harrall from Bennettsville, South Carolina. Like the Evans House, the three-bay, side-gable brick house with interior-end chimneys is laid in Flemish bond. Again, the focus is on the central door with a single-light transom. The recessed entrance is complemented by a classic Colonial Revival-style door surround with flanking pilasters and a pedimented crown with modillions supported by flanking columns. The first level front windows consist of eight-over-twelve sash with a wood apron. Similar to the Evans House, the corners are embellished with brick quoins. An elliptical

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 16

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

curving staircase with a spiraling banister highlights the central hall. Colonial Revival details include elaborately carved mantels and cornices and plaster ceiling medallions (NC Department of Cultural Resources Survey File SC 253).

Two physicians in town also built their homes in the Colonial Revival style along Church Street. Dr. Peter McLean built his two-story, brick, side-gable house at 311 West Church Street ca. 1925. The three-bay house includes paired six-over-six sash windows and a columned portico over the central entrance. The portico and the attached porte cochere are both surmounted by matching balustrades. Colonial Revival details include a recessed entrance with a four-light transom, a classical door surround consisting of fluted pilasters and a denticulated cornice, pedimented side gables, and dentils under the eaves. The house also features two interior chimneys and two gabled dormers (NC Department of Cultural Resources Survey File SC 304).

Dr. Albert Warren James built his two-story, side-gable brick house at 333 East Church Street ca. 1940. The substantial two-story six-bay house has an attached one-story sun porch and porte cochere. The round-arched windows with keystones and stuccoed tympana with central diamond tiles give the home a distinctive flair. Matching balusters surmount the sun porch, porte cochere and the asymmetrical columned entry (NC Department of Cultural Resources Survey File SC 141).

The examples discussed reveal that the Colonial or Georgian Revival style was a popular choice for Laurinburg's businessmen and professionals during the first half of the twentieth century. The houses, for the most part, were sited prominently along Church Street, Laurinburg's main east-west thoroughfare. The houses were architect designed; and although they included similar Colonial Revival details, each house was also very distinctive. The Evans House, however, was not just a house but part of an estate. With its block-wide lot, massive house with flanking wings, superior building materials, and professionally landscaped grounds, it clearly conveyed the message that it was designed for one of Laurinburg's most important, prominent, and wealthy citizens.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 17

Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 18

**Evans, E. Hervey, House
Scotland County, NC**

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel consists of Block 3, Lot 4 according to Tax Map 2 of Laurinburg, Scotland County, North Carolina.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the E. Hervey Evans House.